

Blood Matters report for blood management (or equivalent) committee

February 2023

OFFICIAL

Strategic Plan 2019–23

Goal:

Through a collaborative approach support and enhance best practices in quality care, clinical safety, and blood management (sustainable, responsible, safe and appropriate use), for improved patient outcomes in Victorian health services.

Objectives:

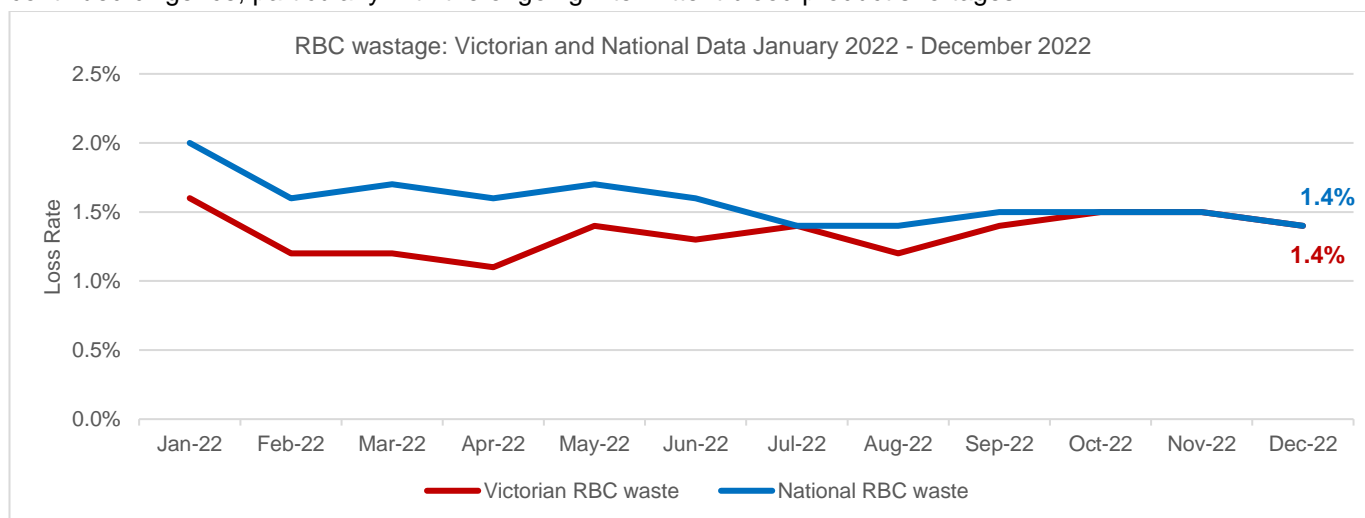
Use innovative and diverse approaches to:

- Promote and support the development of strategies that optimise appropriate use of blood products, alternatives, and person-centred care through national and local governance frameworks and standards
- Foster and strengthen partnerships and stakeholder relationships
- Analyse data and disseminate findings across the sector to raise awareness, influence practice, promote efficiencies, and provide value
- Provide and promote expert knowledge sharing and collaboration across the sector, including specific initiatives, tools and specialised advice.

Blood stewardship

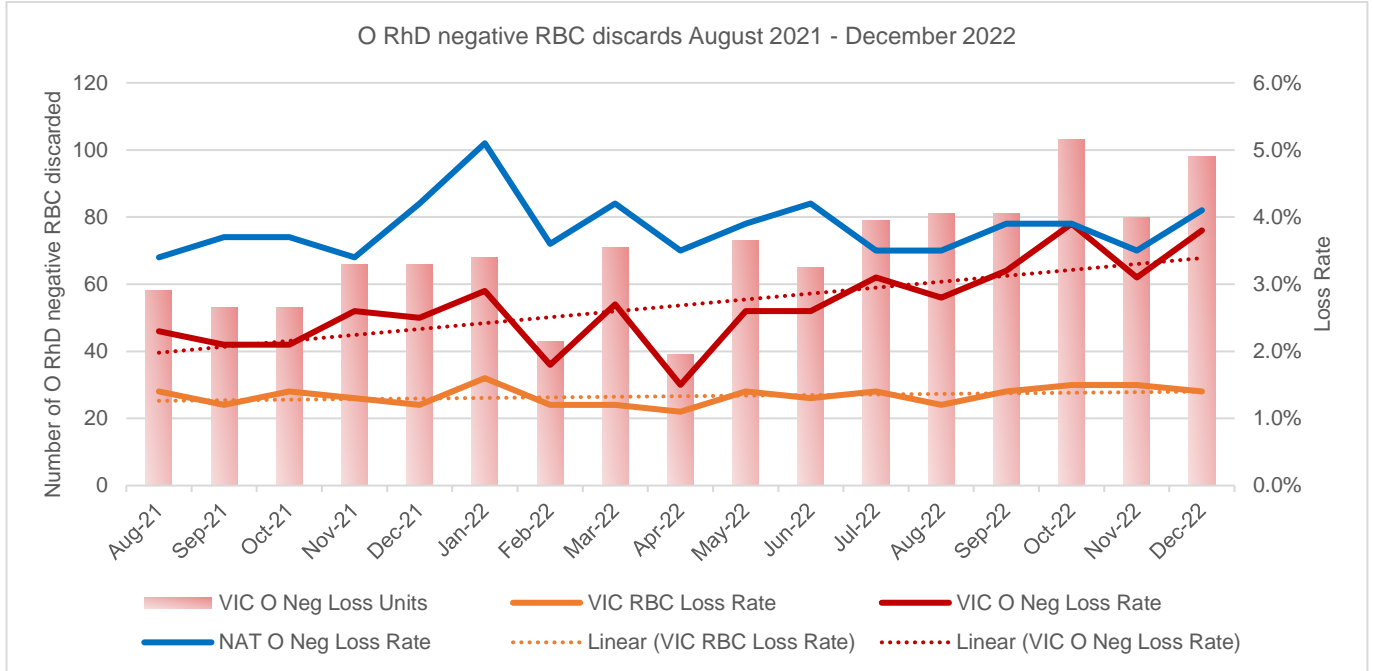
RBC wastage

Victorian RBC wastage has been equal to the average national RBC wastage over the previous three months. The 2022-23 festive campaign continues through February, and we support health services and transfusion laboratories continued diligence, particularly with the ongoing intermittent blood product shortages.



O RhD negative RBC wastage

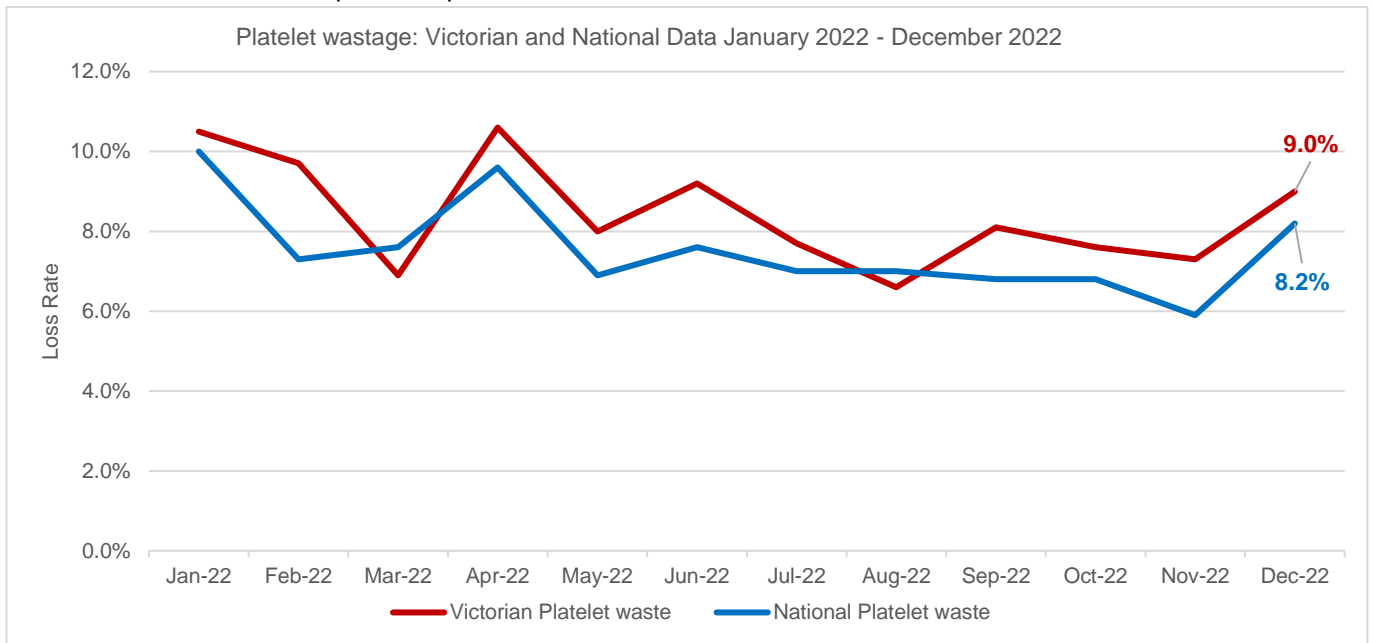
O RhD negative RBC wastage in Victoria is trending upwards, please take the opportunity to review inventory levels and rotation policies for emergency use RBC that are managed at your site. As more health services begin to use emergency use group O RhD positive RBC, previous stock levels of O RhD negative RBC may no longer be necessary. It is noted that the rotation of RBC in a timely fashion can be challenging, especially when restrictions affect routine practice and replenishment of inventory. Your ongoing assistance will support reduced waste.



*Loss Rate includes RBC recalled by Lifeblood

Platelet wastage

Victorian platelet wastage remains consistently above the national average. Health services and transfusion laboratories continued inventory level monitoring, ensuring rotation of inventory and co-operation between transfusion services can help reduce platelet waste.



Emergency use group O RBC

In response to the ongoing shortage of O RhD negative RBC in Australia, the National Blood Authority (NBA) is currently preparing a National Statement for the Emergency Use of Group O RBC, which includes the use of group O RhD positive RBC. It is anticipated that the National Statement will be released imminently.

To align Victoria with the National Statement, Blood Matters have been working with Safer Care Victoria to prepare recommendations and resources for emergency use of group O red blood cells in Victoria.

The recommendations and resources will be available when the National Statement has been released and they include:

- Infographic
 - Poster for display
 - Screensaver for computers
- Fact sheet
- Management “how to” guide
- Clinical pathways
 - Health services with an offsite transfusion laboratory
 - Health services with an onsite transfusion laboratory
- Education slides
 - Clinical
 - Laboratory
- Emergency use group O RBC policy and use audit tool
- Emergency use group O RBC swing tags

To assist laboratories, Blood Matters will be able to supply some initial emergency use group O RBC swing tags and a template has been created for inhouse printing. Laboratories have been sent a link to a survey to indicate whether they require swing tags, and these will be distributed as soon as they are available.

Blood management summit for scientists

The annual blood management summit for scientists, offers scientific and local industry updates for our laboratory colleagues across the blood sector.

It is planned that this will be in-person and held later in 2023, possibly in September or October depending on other conference dates yet to be announced. Further information will be circulated closer to the time.

Auditing:

Consent audit 2022

The Blood Matters audit on blood transfusion consent was performed in June to August 2022. This two-part audit included a policy survey, and retrospective medical record audits of consent documentation for up to 30 patients who received a blood component transfusion.

This audit compares data with the 2012 audit. The 2012 audit report is available on the Blood Matters webpage at: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/patient-care/audit-reports>. The 2022 audit report will be available here in the near future. Health services that contributed data will receive their individual results compared to the overall data. It is intended that health services use this data to assess any changes or updates needed to their policies, practices or documentation to ensure patients who receive blood component transfusions are properly informed and that the consent (or refusal) is clearly documented and easily found.

Serious transfusion incident reporting (STIR) system

STIR continues to receive and validate reports of transfusion reactions, incidents and near miss events related to transfusion from health services. Much of this work is undertaken by the STIR Expert Group, medical, nursing, and scientific staff with an interest and knowledge of transfusion. This work is performed in addition to their own workload, and we appreciate their ongoing support and direction.

The 2020-21 annual report is available on the Blood Matters webpage [Serious Transfusion Incident Reporting system \(health.vic.gov.au\)](#) and the link to the report was sent to registered health services along with an individual report of investigations sent to STIR.

We continue to provide regular Bulletins that highlight important areas of transfusion practice. These can also be found on the Blood Matters webpage. The next Bulletin will discuss some of the issues that can lead to incorrect blood components being transfused and recommendations for improved processes and practices.

For any health service in Victoria, Tasmania, Northern Territory or Australian Capital Territory not currently reporting to STIR, please contact Blood Matters at: Bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au if you wish to participate.

Blood Matters Project Nurse – Subcutaneous immunoglobulin (SCIg) implementation project

The number of patients having treatment with SCIg is slowly increasing. The current state of SCIg in Victoria:

- 21 sites with active programs
- 429 Victorian patients receiving SCIg (Q2 2022-2023)
- 2579 Victorian patients eligible for SCIg by medical diagnosis (Q2 2022-2023)

Activities:

- Three 2023 SCIg forums are planned: 22 February, 7 June and 15 November.
- Work is continuing to expand services to offer a sustainable model for private patients.

Promotion of SCIg, by our Victorian network, continued throughout 2022 with 2 presentations and a poster at Blood 2022, a presentation at CNSA and a poster at ASCIA.

If you would like more information on SCIg or assistance with commencing a program, or extending your existing program, contact the Blood Matters Project Nurse, Anne Graham via email at: angraham@redcrossblood.org.au

SCIg implementation tools, resources, and health service SCIg contacts available at: [Subcutaneous Immunoglobulin \(SCIg\) access program \(health.vic.gov.au\)](#)

Blood Matters forums

The Blood Matters forums for blood management/transfusion nurses/trainers and quality officers continue to be virtual. Discussion with the group about how we can better support BMN/TN/TT/TQOs has led to a change in the way we meet. An in-person forum is planned for October, and we will trial regular virtual meetings that will include education and discussion, and several sessions will also incorporate journal club. The first of these is planned for 20 February 2023 and others will occur on a second monthly basis. Participation by the BMN/TN/TT/TQO is vital for the success of these forums.

Blood Matters journal club

The last Blood Matters journal club meeting for 2022 was on 6 December. During this meeting we reviewed two articles looking at the risks of using emergency O positive red cells. As some health services are moving to using O positive red cells for emergency use, consideration of the associated risks is an important factor. The discussion around these articles was interesting and useful.

Education

Virtual education sessions have enabled us to reach a larger audience from further afield. The main education activity has been the five in 5 sessions, covering different blood management and transfusion practice areas, run over 5 consecutive days. Participants can choose to join any or all sessions. Each session is recorded and a link to the recording is sent to all registrants. A certificate of attendance is offered following the completion of an evaluation survey. The feedback has been consistently positive.

Upcoming virtual events for 2023:

- Five in 5 sessions, 5 topics over 5 days being offered in March 20-24 and October 23-27
- Five in 5 sessions for midwives being held May 1-5
- An in-person enrolled nurse (EN) study day is planned for November and includes practical sessions on blood administration and specimen collection.

Further information will be sent out closer to the dates.

Please contact Blood Matters Bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au if you would like further information or if we can help you to run your education event.

Conferences

Conferences are a great opportunity gaining and sharing knowledge, finding out about the latest research and developments in the world of blood and to make new contacts. Some of the blood related conferences you may find of interest are:

- Blood is the combined Annual Scientific Meeting of the Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand, the Australian and New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion and the Thrombosis and Haemostasis society of Australia and New Zealand.
 - **Blood 2023** is being held in Melbourne from 5 to 8 November 2023
 - Abstract submission open 21 March 2023
 - Abstract submission closes 31 May 2023
- International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT) – 33rd Regional Congress is being held in Gothenburg, Sweden, from 17 to 21 June 2023.
 - Abstract submission is open now and closes on 6 March 2023
- International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT) – The International Congress is being held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 18 to 21 November 2023
- Closer to home the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA) – Annual Congress is being held in Adelaide from 14 to 16 June
 - Abstract submissions are now open and close on 5 February 2013

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Available at <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/patient-care/blood-matters-program>